

Quiz 9

May. 30, 2007

1. (10 pts) Given $f(x, y) = x^3 - 3xy + y^3$, find the partial derivatives, f_x , f_y , f_{xy} and f_{xx} .

$$f_x = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (x^3 - 3xy + y^3) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (x^3) - 3y \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (x) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (y^3)$$

$$= 3x^2 - 3y$$

$$f_y = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (x^3 - 3xy + y^3) = 0 - 3x \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (y) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (y^3)$$

$$= -3x + 3y^2$$

$$f_{xy} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (f_x) = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (3x^2 - 3y) = -3$$

$$f_{xx} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} f_x = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (3x^2 - 3y) = 6x$$

2. (10 pts) Find the equation of the tangent plane to the surface at the given point.

$$z = x^2 - y^2 + 1 \quad \text{at } (2, 1, 4)$$

$$f_x = 2x, \quad f_x(2, 1) = 4 \quad f(x, y)$$

$$f_y = -2y, \quad f_y(2, 1) = -2$$

normal vector to the tangent plane

$$\vec{n} \parallel \langle 0, 1, f_y(2, 1) \rangle \times \langle 1, 0, f_x(2, 1) \rangle = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ 0 & 1 & -2 \\ 1 & 0 & 4 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \langle 4, -2, -1 \rangle$$

Take $\vec{n} = \langle 4, -2, -1 \rangle$, let (x, y, z) be a point on the tangent plane, then we have

$$\langle x-2, y-1, z-4 \rangle \cdot \langle 4, -2, -1 \rangle = 0$$

$$\text{or } 4(x-2) - 2(y-1) - (z-4) = 0$$

$$\text{or } z = 4(x-2) - 2(y-1) + 4$$